

Response under 37 CFR 1.116
Expedited Procedure Examining Group
Box: AF

coupling an r.f. power supply through a coaxial transmission line to a suitably designed tuning network;

coupling said network to a small plasma chamber having suitable electrodes located within;

coupling a gas manifold that provides a suitable mixture of oxygen and a noble gas to said small plasma chamber; and,

utilizing the portion of the plasma that spills out of the small chamber for localized sterilization purposes.

REMARKS

The renumbering of claims is noted.

Claim 2 and dependent claim 5 stand rejected in paragraph 3 of the Office Letter under 35 USC 112. Claim 2 has been amended to recite sterilization in a localized fashion as supported at page 9, lines 20-22 of the specification.

The present amendment to claim 2 removes the indefiniteness pointed out in paragraph 6 of the Office Letter, reciting localized sterilization.

With respect to paragraph 8 of the Office Letter rejecting claims 2 and 5 over Jacob ('920) in view of Gut Boucher ('286) or Roth et al ('324) it is noted that the primary reference Jacob ('920) fails to teach or suggest that the present method defined with specificity in claim 2 for local sterilization techniques utilizing the gas makeup. Jacob ('920) fails to show or suggest the modifications of Gut Boucher or Roth, more particularly, that "a magnetic field in the plasma region for increasing the ionization ratio" method step of dependent claim 5.

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Accordingly, it is believed that this application contains allowable subject matter, which Notice is respectfully solicited.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees, including fees for extension of time, which may be required at any time during the prosecution of this amendment without specific authorization, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account 02-2960.

Respectfully submitted,



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